

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 H-01 SCA-01 SY-04 L-03 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3800

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE

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FOR SCS AND H

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ CASC, AU

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF "CHRIST IS THE
ANSWER" TOURING GROUP

1. AUSTRIAN BORDER AUTHORITIES AT PASSAU, FRG BARRED
ENTRY SEP 22 120-MEMBER EVANGELISTIC TOUR GROUP
"CHRIST IS THE ANSWER" PENDING CLARIFICATION
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PROJECTED THREE-WEEK STAY AUSTRIA.

2. GROUP, CONSISTING 70-75 AMERICANS AND OTHER ASSORTED
NATIONALITIES (FINNS, SWEDES, DUTCH) TRAVELING IN 10-12
VEHICLE PROCESSION OF FLAT-BED TRUCKS, ASSORTED BUSES
AND OTHER VEHICLES, SOUGHT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE
FACILITATE ENTRY.

3. AUSTRIANS, UPON LEARNING GROUP'S MAINTENANCE AND
OTHER LOGISTICAL EXPENSES COVERED EXCLUSIVELY FROM FUNDS
RAISED BY COLLECTIONS, ETC. BECAME CONCERNED LEST GROUP
ADD TO BURDEN AUSTRIAN WELFARE PROGRAM SINCE PANHANDLING
IS CONSIDERED ILLEGAL.

4. LACK OF SPONSORSHIP ORGANIZATION WHICH COULD UNDER-
WRITE EXPENSES AS REQUIRED IS MAJOR PROBLEM.

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5. EMBASSY EXPRESSED PERSONAL INTEREST OF AMBASSADOR

BUT REFRAINED FROM ASSUMING GROUP'S FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY.

6. FOLLOWING EXTENDED DIALOGUE BETWEEN EMBASSY,
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AND DOUG LAYTON, GROUP LEADER,
THE FIGURE OF 300,000 AS (\$16,000) HAS BEEN REQUESTED
AS NECESSARY GUARANTEE. LETTER OF COMMITMENT FROM
LOCAL SOURCES ACCEPTABLE IN INTERIM PROVIDING FUNDS
ORIGINATING US OR ELSEWHERE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE, IF
REQUIRED. LAYTON ATTEMPTING LOCATE INDIVIDUAL/ORGANIZATION
WILLING MAKE NECESSARY COMMITMENT. MEANWHILE GROUP
HELD AT BORDER.

7. ENTRY PERMISSION TO BE TELEPHONED FROM MIN. OF INTERIOR
WHEN LETTER RECEIVED.

8. SENATOR HUGHES AND OFFICE CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM
WHITEHURST INTERESTED. HUMES

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